



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **State Higher Education Commission Votes to Protect Students First: Adopts a Framework for Addressing the State Budget Reductions to Higher Education**

*December 13, 2002* — Sacramento — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) adopted today a framework intended to ensure that anticipated reductions in State support for California higher education are implemented in such a way that student access to the state's public colleges and universities is protected. The Commission acknowledged that some fee increase at the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges will be necessary to deal with the state's serious budget shortfalls. However, it encouraged the governing boards of those three systems, in addition to the Governor and Legislature, to limit the burden placed on students. The framework recommends that no more than one-third of any system's shortfall be addressed through increases in student fees.

"This budgetary reduction framework is based upon the Commission's view that decisions concerning the allocation of resources must be aligned with the expected goals and priorities for California higher education," said Robert L. Moore, Executive Director to the Commission. "The Commission strongly endorses California's long-term commitment to students by providing access, maintaining affordability, assuring quality, increasing diversity, and maximizing educational opportunity for California citizens," he noted.

As legislative discussions concerning current year and future budget year reductions intensify, the Commission will work with State policymakers and educational leaders to identify and pursue ways to most effectively protect the highest priority goals in higher education.

The Commission is the state's independent higher education coordinating and planning body. It advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy issues and consists of 16 members, nine of whom represent the general public, five who represent the major systems of California education (the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, the independent colleges and universities, and the State Board of Education), and two student representatives.

A copy of Commission's *Principles and Priorities for Higher Education* and its *Framework for Addressing Budget Reductions in Higher Education*, along with additional information about higher education in California, may be obtained from its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov).